

of the neck of said bottle and further including an opening twist or loop (31), comprising:

a head (5), a skirt (4) of a film or sheet material,

an easy-to-open means provided on said skirt and including an upper line of weakness (43) and a lower line of weakness (44)

wherein said lower line of weakness (44) is located on the cover at a height H that defines a partition of said cover with an upper part (10) and a lower part (11), the height being such that after said cover and said sealed bottle have been assembled said lower line of weakness (44) breaks when said cover is first opened to provide access to said cork once said upper part (10) has been removed, said lower part (11) remaining intact on the neck,

wherein said upper line of weakness (43) is separated from the lower line weakness (44) by a distance L at least equal to  $0.5 H$ , wherein H is the height between the lower line of weakness (44) and the top end of said cover (1),

upper (43) and lower (44) lines of weakness defining an opening strip 45 having a width L,

a gripping tab (46) disposed at a free end of said opening strip,

said gripping tab (46) comprising notches (460, 461) disposed at upper and lower ends thereof and intended to direct the tearing of said opening strip (45) during said first opening such that when said bottle is opened for said first time said opening strip (45) by pulling on said gripping tab (46) and removing said upper part (10) along.

2. (Amended) Cover of claim 1, further comprising means for fastening said lower part (11) to said neck, and means for reinforcing said upper part (10) so that when said bottle

is opened, said upper part (10) is removed wholly.

6. (Twice Amended) Cover of claim 1 wherein said lower part (11, 65) comprises a lower reinforcement (67) means that increases the mechanical properties of said lower part (11) and adheres to an inner surface of said lower part (11, 65) at least along and parallel to said lower line of weakness (44), said lower reinforcement (67) further comprises an adhesive layer over a surface that can be activated and that is intended to adhere to said neck.

10. (Twice Amended) Cover of claim 1 wherein said upper part comprises an upper reinforcement means (47) selected, particularly in terms of type and position on the inner surface of said upper part, to increase the mechanical properties of said upper part such that when said bottle is opened for said first time said opening strip (45), which is created by pulling on gripping tab (46), removes the whole of said upper part (10) along with it and to enable said upper line of weakness (43) to be removed by said upper reinforcement means.

14. (Amended) Cover of claim 13 wherein said reinforcement means (47) comprise an upper part or edge (470) along the same reinforcement strip, said upper (470) and lower edges (471) being separated by a width  $L$ , that is constant or otherwise depending on angular position  $\alpha$ , width  $L$  ranging typically between 0.4 and 4 cm, average width  $L$  being preferably between 0.3 and 0.7 times  $H$ ,  $H$  being the height between the lower line and the upper end or top of said cover (1).

17. (Twice Amended) Cover of claim 10 wherein said upper (47) or lower (67) reinforcement means consist either of a thin sheet or reinforcement strip, typically of a plastic material (preferably PET or PP), paper, or a layer, strip or line of plastic, resin, varnish or paint material.

18. (Twice Amended) Cover of claim 1 wherein said cover material is selected from a group consisting of Al, Al alloys, Sn, Sn alloys, shrinkable plastic, Al/PO/Al complex multilayers, Al/PO/paper, PO/Al/PO, and charged PO/Al/PO, wherein Al refers to a layer of aluminum, PO a layer of polyolefin (preferably PE) capable of containing a charge that is typically mineral.

20. (Twice Amended) Method for producing covers (1) of claim 1 comprising the steps of:

- cutting out a blank of arc (6) of said skirt said film or sheet material of height H',
- providing said lower line of weakness (44) and said notches (460, 461) on an axial edge (60),
- providing an additional means being selected from an upper line of weakness (43), an upper reinforcement means (47, 48), a lower reinforcement means (67), a means (66) for fastening all or part of lower part (11) to the neck,
- applying a radial line of heat- or pressure-activated adhesive (63) on the other axial edge (61) of said arc, except on the matching part or opposite said tab (46),
- rolling said arc (6) on a chuck by folding axial edge (60) back onto the other axial edge

(61), applying a line of adhesive between the two edges, or activating said pre-applied radial line of adhesive, to shape said skirt (4) by pressing edges (60, 61) together and possibly creating said grooves (9), and a head (5) is assembled or created by adding a part of the head and fastening it by thermobonding to upper rim (64) of said skirt that is possibly shrunk and folded.

21. (Amended) Method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of depositing an upper reinforcement or a lower reinforcement either by bonding a strip according to the mechanical characteristics required, which are resistance to tearing, and of a required shape, which is part of an annular sector, or by using a gun to apply a strip or line of melted plastic material that is adherent and that hardens when applied.